

Excerpts from Interrogation of Shigetaro  
SHIMADA on 23 January 1946

- "Q. YAMAMOTO proposed his Pearl Harbor attack plan to the General Staff early in 1941, did he not?  
"A. I heard that he offered it in January of 1941.
- "Q. At that time he was Commander-in-Chief of the combined fleet, was he not?  
"A. Yes.
- "Q. Admiral NAGANO authorized him to proceed with a study of the plan in March of 1941, did he not?  
"A. In that point I don't know the date, but I think it was later.
- "Q. But it was early in 1941, wasn't it?  
"A. I think it was perhaps May or June.
- "Q. May or June when his plan was adopted for study?  
"A. At first the ordinary plan did not have any plans for the attack on Pearl Harbor, but it was made formal in May or June. The studying and training of a squadron by YAMAMOTO was begun in May or June of 1941, I think...."
- "Q. You know that the Navy started developing a shallow water torpedo early in 1941, don't you?  
"A. Yes, I know very well.
- "Q. That was because the Navy was well aware that the water at Pearl Harbor was shallow water, wasn't it?  
"A. Yes.
- "Q. And the fleet practiced with the use of such a torpedo throughout the summer of 1941, did it not?  
"A. Yes, I think so...."
- "Q. Now, on November 10, 1941, didn't Vice-Admiral NAGUMO issue aboard his flagship, aircraft 'Akagi' striking force operation order No. 1, which ordered all forces to complete battle operations by November 20, 1941?  
"A. I think that is so.
- "Q. Tankan (Hitokappu) Bay of Etorofu Island in the Kuriles was designated in the striking force order No. 1 as the rendezvous for the task force, wasn't it?  
"A. Yes.
- "Q. Between November 21 and November 27, 1941, the task force rendezvoused at Tankan Bay, didn't it?  
"A. Yes.
- "Q. The task force left Tankan Bay on November 27, 1941, and sailed East until December 4th or 5th, didn't it?  
"A. Yes.
- "Q. Then it altered its course to the Southeast toward Hawaii?  
"A. Yes.

"Q. Upon reaching a point approximately 250 miles from Hawaii the first wave of planes was launched, wasn't it?

"A. Yes.

"Q. A fleet of from 20 to 30 Japanese submarines from the Sixth Fleet was patrolling outside Pearl Harbor before the strike, wasn't it?

"A. Yes.

"Q. And a fleet of some 5 or 6 midget submarines attempted to gain entrance to the Harbor, didn't it?

"A. Yes...."